

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0007] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] Varying definitions are used in the art for what constitutes an essential gene, but the term is most frequently applied to those genes necessary for growth on rich media. This variation in the art can be misleading and restrictive in terms of identifying gene products that constitute good antifungal targets. A significant amount of *C. albicans* genomic sequence information is available in both public (available online, e.g., at the Stanford Genome Technology Center Candida Sequencing database) (<http://www.sequence.stanford.edu/group/candida>) and private (Incyte Genomics Inc.) databases. This can be combined with genomic sequence data from other organisms (The yeast genome directory, 1997, *Nature*, 387(6632 Suppl):5; Wood V, et al, 2002, *Nature*, 415(6874):871-80) and with supporting data such as the functional profiling of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* genome (Giaever G, et al, 2002, *Nature*, 418(6896):387-91). This bioinformatics driven approach has allowed the prediction of genes that may be essential in *C. albicans* (Spaltmann F, et al, 1999, *Drug Discovery Today*, 4:17-26). However, even for relatively closely related organisms such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *C. albicans*, there are significant differences that make such in silico predictions unreliable. For example, CET1 and CDC25 are not essential in *C. albicans* despite being essential in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Enloe B, et al, 2000, *J. Bacteriol.*, October, 182:20, 5730-6; Dunyak D S, et al, 2002, 6.sup.th ASM Conference on Candida and Candidiasis).

Please replace paragraph [0011] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] 1-Phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase (MSS4) E.C. 2.7.1.68 is involved in inositol phosphate metabolism and functions to convert ATP+1-phosphatidyl-1D-myo-inositol 4-phosphate to ADP+1-phosphatidyl-1D-myo-inositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP₂) (Yoshida et al, 1994, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 242, 631-640; Hairfield et al, 2002, *Microbiology*, 148(6), 1737-1746). The MSS4 enzyme is encoded by the MSS4 gene (YDR208W/YD8142A.05) and details for the fungal enzyme are provided under Accession numbers: P38994 in the Swiss Prot database (available online, e.g., at the ExPASy Proteomics Server database) (<http://ca.expasy.org>) for *S.*

cerevisiae; CA0623 in the Institut Pasteur Candida database (available online, e.g., at the Candida DB World-Wide Web server database) (<http://genolist.pasteur.fr/CandidaDB/>) which is cross-referenced with the Stanford open-reading frame (ORF) orf6.1660 (available online, e.g., at the Stanford Genome Technology Center Candida Sequencing database) (<http://www.sequence.stanford.edu/group/candida>). Synonyms for MSS4 include diposphoinositide kinase, PIP kinase (PIP5K), PtdIns(4)P-5-kinase and CaMSS4.3.